

The opinion in support of the decision being entered today was *not* written for publication and is *not* binding precedent of the Board.

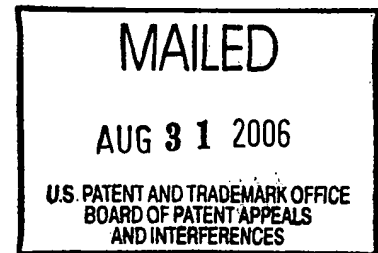
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte STEFAN B. EDLUND,
DANIEL ALEXANDER FORD,
and JOANN RUVOLO

Appeal No. 2006-0782
Application 09/531,016¹

ON BRIEF



Before MARTIN, BARRETT, and TIERNEY, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

BARRETT, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION ON APPEAL

This is a decision on appeal under 35 U.S.C. § 134(a) from the final rejection of claims 22, 24, 26, 27, and 29-43. Claims 1-21, 23, 25, and 28 are canceled.

We reverse.

¹ Application for patent filed March 20, 2000, entitled "System and Method for Scheduled Events to Subscribe to Live Information Topics."

BACKGROUND

The invention relates to accessing dynamic content linked to different scheduled calendar events. A calendar entry (or event, the terms are used interchangeably) within a certain category (e.g., meeting, travel, vacation, etc.) is linked to any number of topics related to that category and up-to-date information on these topics is displayed when the entry is viewed. Topics (e.g., weather and flight schedules) are published on topic channels by one or more services (topic publishers or topic providers) and a calendar system administrator maps the event's category to a corresponding service. For example, when a client enters information related to a new calendar entry or event (e.g., a business trip from San Jose, CA, to Boston, MA in the business trip category), the calendar system determines which topics relate to that event (e.g., weather and flight schedules) and identifies corresponding topic channels which currently exist, or need to be created, between the calendar system and the topic provider. In each calendar entry, links are created to local versions of the appropriate topic channels to provide up-to-date information.

Claim 22 is reproduced below.

22. A method of mapping electronic calendar events to at least one topic publisher providing a service comprising the steps of:

receiving a calendar entry for an event associated with a topic subscriber;

identifying a category associated with said calendar entry and at least one service associated with said category;

mapping said event to a set of topic names for said services;

identifying one or more topic channels which are associated with said topic names, said topic channels linked with topic channels remotely provided by said topic publisher;

incorporating, within said event, a link to said one or more topic channels of said event, and

receiving frequently updated service messages from said topic publisher for said topic names and topic channels that are associated with said events.

THE REFERENCE

The Examiner relies on the following reference:

Barnett et al. (Barnett)	6,369,840	April 9, 2002
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THE REJECTION

Claims 22, 24, 26, 27, and 29-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Barnett.

We refer to the Final Rejection and the Examiner's Answer (pages referred to as "EA__") for a statement of the Examiner's rejection, and to the Brief (pages referred to as "Br__") and Reply Brief (pages referred to as "RBr__") for a statement of Appellants' arguments thereagainst.

DISCUSSION

Content of Barnett

Barnett discloses generating and displaying a calendar containing user-selected events from user-selected categories. The user can specify or "subscribe" to categories of events from a plurality of categories of events (e.g., Movies, Books, Music, Sports, etc. in Fig. 6) (col. 9,

lines 48-59). Events data are extracted in various ways from external data sources, formatted, and written to an events database (Fig. 15; col. 10, lines 13-53). Events belonging to a selected event category are displayed in a list form (Fig. 7A) or grid form (Fig. 7B) and the user can obtain additional detail about an event by clicking on the link (col. 11, lines 8-27). From a favorite events screen (Figs. 8 & 9), the user can view events from selected categories to which he or she has subscribed and can select individual events for inclusion in his or her personal calendar (col. 11, lines 28-43; col. 12, lines 16-22). The personal calendar may be displayed in day view (Fig. 11), week view (Fig. 12), month view (Fig. 13), or detail view (Fig. 14).

Arguments and response

Appellants argue that Barnett does not subscribe electronic calendar events to dynamic information providers, but requires a user to manually search categories, manually retrieve calendar events related to a selected category, and then manually store event information in a calendar according to the requirements and specifications of the user (Br7). It is argued that "[t]he present invention allows a user to create a calendar event and the system subsequently (not before) searches and matches topics that are related to the created event" (Br7). In particular, it is argued that "Barnett fails to provide the element of identifying one or more topic channels which are associated with said topic names" (Br7), but requires the user to manually search information topics to see the already scheduled calendar events that are available to add to his own calendar. Appellants argue that the examiner's reliance on column 10, lines 15-20, and Fig. 15 are misplaced because Barnett does not describe searching or identifying channels for related

information as in the present invention (Br7). Appellants argue that Barnett does not describe a link to topic channels that are found to be related to the calendar event (Br7) and this limitation is not taught in column 11, lines 28-31 and Figs. 7A and 7B relied upon by the examiner (Br7-8).

The examiner responds that the claims do not recite automatic mapping of a calendar entry to a service and providing links that constantly provide up-to-date information (EA9-10). The examiner repeats that column 10, lines 15-20, and Fig. 15 teach identifying topic channels associated with topic names linked to channels by a topic publisher (EA10).

Appellants reply that the examiner errs in stating that "maps the entry to services" and "providing up-to-date information" are not shown in the claims, because claim 22 recites "mapping said event to a set of topic names for said services" and "receiving frequently updated service messages" (RBr2). It is argued that Barnett does not describe "identifying channels" or providing a "link to topic channels" (RBr2). Appellants argue that the examiner has introduced new statements in the examiner's answer at page 10, relying on different portions of Barnett than in prior actions, but, in any case, these additional portions of Barnett do not describe a "calendar entry for an event associated with a topic subscriber" or "mapping an event to a set of topic names for services" or "identifying one of more topic channels" related to a calendar entry or "incorporating, within said event, a link to said one or more topic channels of said event" (RBr4).

Analysis

While Barnett contains terms that are similar to those in the claim, we do not find a teaching of the claimed method. Barnett teaches that a user can "subscribe" to an "event

category" (col. 11, lines 28-29) and the categories can have subcategories (e.g., "Music" category has "Concerts" and "CD Releases" subcategories). The "event category" could be considered to correspond to a "category," the event subcategories could be considered to correspond to "topics" having "topic names," and the host system could be considered to correspond to a "topic subscriber." Barnett teaches that there are links between external data sources and the various event categories in the event database, so that the event categories can be updated (Fig. 15). The "event database" could be considered to correspond broadly to the "service associated with said category," which has "topic channels" associated with the "topic names." We agree with the examiner that the claims do not recite "automatic" mapping of a calendar entry. However, although various terms in Barnett might be considered to correspond to discrete terms in Barnett, the claims are method claims and Barnett does not disclose the sequence of steps in the method.

While the steps in a method claim are not necessarily limited to being performed in the order recited, we agree with appellants that the claim 22 steps of "identifying a category associated with said calendar entry," "mapping said event to a set of topic names," "identifying one or more topic channels," "incorporating, within said event, a link," and "receiving frequently updated service messages" are performed subsequently to receiving the event entry; e.g., "identifying a category associated with said calendar entry" requires that there first be an entry. Barnett works oppositely from the claimed invention because instead of starting with "receiving a calendar entry for an event" and then identifying a category and service based on the event and service, and mapping the event to topic names and topic channels of services and creating links


to the topic channels, in Barnett the services, topic channels, links, and event categories are already set up and the user selects an event to put in his/her calendar. The statement of the rejection does not explain how Barnett performs the steps in the order required by the claim and fails to establish a prima facie case of anticipation. We find that Barnett does not teach the steps of claim 22. The rejection of claims 22, 24, 26, 27, 29-32, and 43 is reversed.


Independent method claim 33 and claim 42 to a computer user medium having a computer readable program code embodied thereon for steps to map calendar events to service messages both start with "receiving a calendar entry for an event." Independent system claim 39 performs the initial function of "receiving a request for said calendar entry for an event." These independent claims require the further steps and functions to be performed subsequent to receiving the calendar entry, which sequence is not addressed by the rejection, and we find is not taught in Burnett. The rejection of claims 33-42 is reversed.


CONCLUSION

The rejection of claims 22, 24, 26, 27, and 29-43 is reversed.

REVERSED


JOHN C. MARTIN
Administrative Patent Judge


LEE E. BARRETT
Administrative Patent Judge


MICHAEL P. TIERNEY
Administrative Patent Judge

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